



Airports

PHOTOG: Gene Pesek

FILM

DATE 12-13-73

Midway Airport

SUBJECT New FAA control Tower

V. NAMES LEFT TO RIGHT

ALSO ADDITIONAL CAPTION MATERIAL

EXCLUSIVE?

~~View~~around Midway Airport showing the new FAA control tower
Views

the old and new towers, the old tower on the right of the pix sits on top of the terminal, the new tower to the left seats high above the terminal and field.

pix looking at the new control tower from ~~inside~~ the empty terminal

pix from the south end of the terminal shows the ~~new~~ new tower in the rear and passenger arriving at the United gate.

Nick Molsen chief air traffic controller at Midway claims that 80 percent of the traffic at Midway is the private type planes pictured in the foreground of the pix

By Maril Ahern

The ticket counters are mostly deserted and parking spaces readily available at the airport once called the world's busiest, Midway. Of the 11 airlines operating out of the airport at 63d and Cicero at the beginning of 73, only 4 remain. The others are victims of the fuel shortage and a sharp decline in passenger traffic.

United Air Lines, headquartered in Chicago and the largest operator out of Midway, suspended its 16 ingoing and outgoing flights after Jan. 3, including 5 commuter flights to Washington and New York.

Joseph Byerwalter, United's Chicago regional vice president, who feels that limited service facilities led to the passenger exodus, said:

"The reason passenger volume diminished is basic to the nature of Chicago as a connection point serving all points in the U.S.; the passenger options are not complete enough for them?"

"There are not enough terminal connection opportunities presented to the passengers. The Civil Aeronautics Board has tried to encourage more meaningful scheduling offers at Midway, but people prefer to go to O'Hare Airport where they have all the opportunities."

In 1972 United boarded 173,000 passengers at Midway, down from 211,000 in 1971. In 1973 the company estimates it boarded 155,000 passengers. At O'Hare, however, it served an estimated 6 million passengers in 1973 on more

RRU 98919

SUN-TIMES
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An air traveler has the Midway terminal all to himself. (Sun-Times Photo by Gene Pesek)

3 1/2" x 4 1/8"
+ Midway Sun 12